

Serial No. 10/758,310

Atty Dkt No. 706784US1

REMARKS:

Applicants have carefully reviewed the Examiner's comments in the Office Action and have prepared the following response.

Claims 1-3, 6-8, and 11-13 have been cancelled.

Claims 4, 9, and 14 have been amended.

Claims 4, 5, 9, 10, and 14-22 remain pending in this application.

Initially, Applicants note with appreciation the Examiner's indication that claims 4, 5, 9, 10, and 14-22 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all base and intervening claims. By this paper, Applicants have rewritten claims 4, 9, and 14 into independent form including any base and intervening claims. In addition, Applicants note that claims 5, 10, and 15-22 (in original form) depend either directly or indirectly from newly amended independent claims 4, 10, and 14.

As a result, Applicant believes the application is now in condition for allowance.

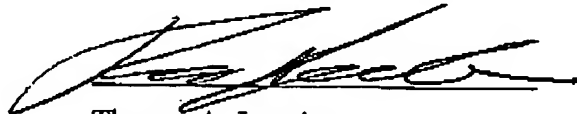
While Applicant has cancelled the rejected claims from this application, the cancellation of these claims is not to be construed as an acquiescence to the Examiner's position regarding the asserted references or the rejected claims. Applicant has cancelled the rejected claims merely to expedite issuance of the allowed claims, and hereby preserve the right to again pursue the rejected claims in a continuation application.

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In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant submits that the claims are patentable over the prior art and the application is in a condition for allowance. Applicant respectfully requests an early notice of allowance. The Examiner is cordially invited to telephone the undersigned for any reason which would help advance the instant application to allowance.

Respectfully submitted,



Thomas A. Jurecko
Reg. No. 48,392

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DAIMLERCHRYSLER INTELLECTUAL CAPITAL COMPANY, LLC
DAIMLERCHRYSLER TECHNOLOGY CENTER
800 CHRYSLER DRIVE EAST, CIMS 483-02-19
AUBURN HILLS, MI 48326-2757
248.944.6525